

SCOTLAND & NORTHERN ENGLAND

Includes Edinburgh Tattoo, Orkney Islands & Skye

August 19, 2017 - 21 days



a world to experience



Fares Per Person:

\$9,395 double/twin

\$11,895 single



> Please add 0.2% GST.

> **Early Bookers:** \$300 discount on first 12 seats; \$150 on next 8

> **Experience Points:** Earn 184 points from this tour.

Redeem **184 points** if you book by **May 17**.

Includes

- Coach transportation from Okanagan, Salmon Arm & Kamloops to Vancouver and return
- Flight from Vancouver to Glasgow, Scotland
- Current air transport tax, security fees and fuel surcharges
- Coach transportation in Scotland and England for 18 days
- 19 nights accommodation and hotel taxes
- Lakeside and Haverthwaite Railway
- Cruise on Lake Windermere
- Wordsworth's Dove Cottage
- Birdoswald Roman Fort
- Vindolanda Museum at Hadrian's Wall
- Lindisfarne Priory
- Local guide for sightseeing tour in Edinburgh
- Edinburgh Castle
- St Giles Cathedral
- Royal Yacht Britannia
- Ticket to the Edinburgh Military Tattoo
- Local guide for tour of the Kingdom of Fife
- Kelpies Horse Heads Sculpture
- Canal cruise with the Falkirk Wheel
- Bannockburn Battlefield site
- Stirling Castle
- Cruise on Loch Katrine
- Cruise on Loch Lomond
- Glengoyne Whisky Distillery tour with sampling
- St. Mungo's Cathedral and Provands Lordship
- Kelvingrove Museum and Gallery
- Blair Athol Distillery tour with sampling
- Blair Castle
- Culloden Battlefield site
- Cruise on Loch Ness with Urquart Castle
- Queen Mother's Castle of Mey
- Ferry to/from Orkney Islands
- Local guide for full-day tour of the Orkneys
- Archeological sites Skara Brae and Maes Howe
- Flight from Glasgow to Vancouver
- Knowledgeable Wells Gray tour director
- British tour guide for 19 days
- Luggage handling at hotels
- Road and bridge tolls
- Gratuities to British guide, local guides, and British coach drivers
- **36 meals:** 19 breakfasts, 3 lunches & 14 dinners

Kamloops > 250-374-0831

Kelowna > 250-762-3435

www.wellsgraytours.com

Penticton > 250-493-1255

Vernon > 250-545-9197

Toll Free > 800-667-9552



Tour Notes

Tour director & guides: A Wells Gray tour director accompanies you throughout the tour. A British guide is with you for 19 days in Scotland and England. Local guides are hired for some cities to provide in-depth commentary and a regional insight.

Passport: A passport is necessary for this tour and must be valid until your return to Canada. A Canadian citizen does not require a visa to enter the United Kingdom.

Fare and tour changes: As this tour has been planned 10 months in advance, changes to air taxes, departure fees, and other costs (either up or down) could occur, in which case the tour fare will be adjusted. Please note that with the current low fuel costs, the airline can add a fuel surcharge if costs start rising, even after your final payment, and we must collect those extra costs from you. Hotels named in the itinerary could change, but substitute accommodation will be of similar or better quality. The British pound is currently at its lowest exchange rate with the Canadian dollar in 30 years which makes this tour quite a bargain, and Wells Gray has been able to lock in these low rates using forward currency contracts, so fare increases for currency exchange reasons are unlikely.

Gratuities: The customary gratuities to the British guide, local guides, and British drivers are included in the tour fare. The gratuities to the Wells Gray tour director and Canadian drivers are not included and are left to your discretion.

Flight: Flight is booked with Air Transat from Vancouver via Toronto to Glasgow and same route returning. It is possible to stay longer and return independently; please enquire at time of booking.

Important Tour Information: This information letter will be provided at final payment and will include many helpful details about your tour.

Activity Level: Due to the historic nature of some attractions, it may be necessary to climb stairs, walk on uneven surfaces, and walk up to a kilometre at a time. Rooms in some hotels may be reached by some stairs after riding the elevator. Sometimes the coach cannot drive all the way to an attraction. There can be longer walks in the airports, so you should request a wheelchair in advance if this could be an issue for you. There are many stops during this tour and you must be able to get on and off the coach by yourself without delaying your fellow travellers. If you are not able to participate in Activity Level 2, Wells Gray Tours recommends that you bring a companion to assist you. The tour director, British guide and drivers have many responsibilities, so please do not expect them, or your fellow travellers, to provide ongoing assistance. Please consider all these mobility issues prior to booking this tour.



Scotland: The Pride, the Passion, the People

Scotland is renowned for its rich heritage, its passionate people, and its contribution to the world past and present. Scottish culture has spread across the globe through emigration, and around 40 million people worldwide identify themselves as Scottish. Those whose ancestry reaches back to the land of Robert the Bruce, Sir Walter Scott and Sean Connery hold strong to the traditions and characteristics of the people. There are so many recognizable Scottish icons: Gaelic, tartans, kilts, whiskey, thistle, bag pipes, Robbie Burns, St. Andrews, and the Stone of Destiny. Far and wide, most Scots are fiercely proud to claim these as their own. From its thriving arts and music scene to its achievements in industry, medicine, science, law, and literature, Scotland's story is one of immense achievement. The Kingdom of Scotland emerged as an independent sovereign state in the early middle ages, but its fate has been inextricably linked with England and the whole of modern Great Britain. The continued existence of legal, educational and religious institutions distinct from those in the rest of the UK have all contributed to upholding Scottish culture and national identity since the Treaty of Union of 1706. The struggle for independence remains active. In 2011, the Scottish National Party won an overall majority in Parliament and held a referendum on independence in 2014 which did not pass. Wells Gray Tours is excited to be offering this encompassing yet leisurely journey, our 4th tour to Scotland, that delves into the diverse land, history and personalities of this remarkable country.

Itinerary

Saturday, August 19:

Meals: L

We travel by coach to Vancouver and stay overnight at the Fairmont Hotel in the airport.

Sunday, August 20:

Meals: B, in flight

We fly out of Vancouver at 11 am on Air Transat to Toronto, then connect this evening for our overnight flight to Glasgow.

Monday, August 21:

Meals: In flight, D

We arrive about 9 am in Glasgow. **Welcome to Scotland!** Our British guide and driver meet us at the airport, then we drive south for three hours to England's Lake District. We stay two nights at the quaint Swan Hotel in Grasmere. It was built in 1650 as a coaching inn and was mentioned in a Wordsworth poem *The Waggoner*. The afternoon is leisure time to relax after the flight from Canada. A get-acquainted dinner is included.

Tuesday, August 22:

Meals: B,D

We explore England's beautiful **Lake District**, a national park with 16 small lakes surrounded by rugged hills. The Lake District has been a popular haunt for Britain's best loved artists and poets for centuries. Green hills, idyllic villages, tranquil lakes, and award-winning gardens confirm why the Lake District is called the 'Most Beautiful Corner of England'. A full-day excursion is planned, starting with a ride on the **Lakeside & Haverthwaite steam train**, followed by a cruise on lovely Lake Windermere. We also visit Dove Cottage, the former home of the poet **William Wordsworth** who lived here from 1799 to 1808 and wrote some of his best known poems.

Wednesday, August 23:

Meals: B,D

Today's drive follows **Hadrian's Wall**, a Roman fortification which was built about 122 AD between the Irish Sea and the North Sea, a distance of 118 km. We visit the Roman Fort at **Birdoswald**, the best place to see the longest continuous section of this remarkable World Heritage Site. Another stop is at the Vindolanda Museum where excavations occur every year at one of Europe's most important Roman archeological sites. The fascinating **Vindolanda Writing Tablets**, dating from the 1st and 2nd centuries, were discovered here in 1973. We stay overnight in Newcastle upon Tyne at the Copthorne Hotel beside the river.

Thursday, August 24:

Meals: B,D

We travel north along the magnificent Northumberland coast. Tides permitting, we cross the tidal causeway to the peaceful **Holy Isle of Lindisfarne**. The Priory was founded in 634 and was the original

home to the Lindisfarne Gospels, probably written about the 8th century. Today you can marvel at the ornate carvings on the extensive ruins of the monastic buildings. Soon we re-enter Scotland and arrive in Edinburgh to stay three nights at the Apex Grassmarket Hotel. It has an excellent central location close to the Castle.

Friday, August 25:

Meals: B

A local guide is with us today for an extended tour of Edinburgh. Its magnificent architecture ranges from the lofty buildings of its medieval Old Town along the Royal Mile, to the graceful houses of the Georgian New Town. Overlooking it all, **Edinburgh Castle** dominates the city skyline. Built in the 12th century, it has been a royal residence and central to many historic conflicts right up to the 1745 Jacobite Rising. Tours of the Castle and St. Giles' Cathedral are included. Next, we board the **Royal Yacht Britannia**, now permanently moored in Edinburgh after decades of service to Queen Elizabeth and the Royal family. Veteran of 968 official voyages, *Britannia* sailed over 1½ million km and accompanied the Royals on many of their most memorable state tours. Tonight, we return to Edinburgh Castle where we have reserved seats at the renowned **Edinburgh Military Tattoo**. It is ranked as one of the most spectacular shows in the world, featuring 1,000 performers in a whirling, colourful and breathtaking kaleidoscope of music, dance and display. The haunting tunes of *Skye Boat Song* and *All the Blue Bonnets* are played against the backdrop of the castle ramparts and the twilight, truly a memorable experience for our Scotland tour.

Saturday, August 26:

Meals: B

A local guide joins us again to visit **The Kingdom of Fife**. Ancestral home of Scottish monarchs, world-famous for its golf, and with some of Scotland's best scenic attractions, Fife is a proud region with a distinct identity. After crossing the Firth of Forth Bridge, we drive along the Fife coastal trail, visiting the fishing villages of Anstruther and Pittenweem Harbour. Next is St Andrews, notable for its university and as headquarters of the **Royal and Ancient Golf Club**. Founded in 1754, it is the game's foremost authority and the spiritual home to golfers all over the world. The famed Old Course has played host to the world's best players at many different championships.

Sunday, August 27:

Meals: B,D

We journey west from Edinburgh with a stop at the giant **Kelpies Sculpture** of two horse heads. Nearby, we take a cruise on the Forth & Clyde Canal

using the newly-opened **Falkirk Wheel**. This engineering marvel is the only rotating boatlift in the world, and raises vessels 24 metres to the Union Canal. We continue to Bannockburn Battlefield where, in 1314, King Robert the Bruce routed the forces of King Edward II to win freedom for the Scots from English domination. On arrival in **Stirling**, we stay four nights at the Golden Lion Hotel.

Monday, August 28: *Meals: B*

Stirling Castle is one of Scotland's grandest, due to its imposing hilltop location and impressive architecture. Construction started in the 14th century and it has been important to Scottish history since then, enduring 16 sieges and presiding over three major battles. We spend the morning at the Castle and the afternoon is free time in Stirling.

Tuesday, August 29: *Meals: B,D*

Today is devoted to **Trossachs National Park** where the magnificent landscape has fired the imagination of writers and artists for centuries. It embraces the deep waters of Loch Lomond, the wild glens of the Trossachs, the Breadalbane Hills, and the sheltered sea lochs of the Argyll Forest. Two cruises are included, on Loch Katrine and **Loch Lomond**. The latter is Scotland's largest and most romantic loch and is the focal point of Scotland's first national park. Afterwards we taste the superb whiskies at **Glengoyne Distillery** where we can buy directly from the producer.

Wednesday, August 30: *Meals: B,D*

We drive into **Glasgow** for the day. Scotland's largest city has a strong industrial past, but is noted for its reinvention and transformation. The historic city sees its future in the service industries such as tourism and conventions. Glasgow has received many prestigious awards, including the impressive title of UK City of Architecture and Design. The tour includes St Mungo's Cathedral, The Provands Lordship, and Kelvingrove Museum and Gallery, as well as free time.

Thursday, August 31: *Meals: B,D*

We head further north into the Scottish Highlands. In Pitlochry, we visit **Blair Athol Distillery**, home of Bells Whisky, and tour **Blair Castle** which has its roots in the 13th century and is the ancient seat of the Dukes and Earls of Atholl. We travel through the Grampian Mountains in **Cairngorms National Park**, and arrive at Aviemore Highlands Resort for a two-night stay.

Friday, September 1: *Meals: B,D*

Culloden Moor was the scene of the last major battle fought in Britain, an iconic site in Scotland. The **Culloden Battle of 1746** ended the Jacobite chances of restoring the exiled Stuart dynasty to the throne of Britain. Government forces led by the Duke of Cumberland crushed the army of Prince Charles Edward Stuart (Bonnie Prince Charlie) in an hour. We continue into **Inverness** for free time. No trip to Scotland would be complete without a cruise on legendary **Loch Ness**, home of the famous inhabitant Nessie. Learn all about the sightings and speculation as we watch the sonar and cruise this mysterious lake. At 37 km long, 1½ km wide, and 220 metres deep, Loch Ness contains enough water to fill every lake and river in England. **Urquart Castle** is perched on the shore of Loch Ness and we wander among its ruins.

Saturday, September 2: *Meals: B,D*

We drive to the north coast of Scotland where we visit the Queen Mother's beloved **Castle of Mey**. She first saw what was then Barrogill Castle in 1952 while mourning the death of her husband, King George VI. She restored the castle and created the beautiful gardens, and for half a century spent many happy summers here. We are treated to afternoon tea at the castle. Later, we board the ferry for the crossing to the Orkney Islands. The next two nights are at the Ayre Hotel in Kirkwall.

Sunday, September 3: *Meals: B,L,D*

Over 70 islands make up the archipelago of the **Orkney Islands**, a beautiful land shaped by the sea. The climate is mild, the soil is fertile, and the people have a fondness for folklore. Orkney contains some of the oldest and best-preserved Neolithic sites in Europe, and the heart of the main island is a designated UNESCO World Heritage Site. Today, we explore these fascinating islands with a local guide, and visit some of the most famous sites such as the **Standing Stones of Stenness**, the burial chamber at Maes Howe, the dramatic white beach of the Bay of Skail, and the Ring of Brodgar. **Skara Brae** is over 5,000 years old and the best preserved Neolithic village in northern Europe; it was exposed by a storm in 1850 and is still being excavated.

Monday, September 4: *Meals: B,D*

We spend the morning in Kirkwall seeing the **Churchill Barriers** and the Italian Chapel, and learning about Scapa Flow before taking the ferry back to mainland Scotland. Our overnight stay is in Strathpfeffer at the Ben Wyvis Hotel which has a delightful park-like setting on a five-acre property.

Tuesday, September 5:*Meals: B,D*

We admire stunning scenery during the drive to the west coast through a remote section of the Scottish Highlands. True romantics pack their bags and head 'over the sea to Skye' according to the poem, often said to be the most entrancing region of Scotland. After crossing the bridge, we tour the **Isle of Skye**, through the imposing Cuillin Hills, among pastures where Highland cows graze, to the small fishing town of Portree with its pastel-coloured houses lining the harbour. Marvel at Kilt Rock where 70-metre high cliffs are marked in an almost tartan-like pattern by the rock strata and a waterfall tumbles to the pebbled shore below. We stay overnight in Kyleakin at The Kings Arms Hotel.

Wednesday, September 6:*Meals: B,D*

Our journey heads south with some photo stops at Eilean Donan Castle and at Fort William to see **Ben Nevis**, highest mountain in Britain at 1,335 me-

tres. Then we travel through the grandeur of **Glen Coe**, hearing the tale of the 1692 Massacre of Glen Coe. Myths, mysteries and movies are all now part of the fabric of this magical valley. Our last night in Scotland is truly memorable, enjoying the five-star luxury of **Cameron House** on the "bonnie bonnie banks o' Loch Lomond." A farewell dinner is arranged tonight.

Thursday, September 7:*Meals: B, In-flight*

Part of the morning is leisure time to stroll the grounds of Cameron House and soak up the beauty of **Loch Lomond**. It is a 30-minute drive to Glasgow Airport and our flight on Air Transat leaves at 1 pm. We change planes in Toronto and arrive in Vancouver about 10 pm. A comfortable bed at the Fairmont YVR Hotel is waiting.

Friday, September 8:*Meals: B,L*

We drive home to the Okanagan, Kamloops and Salmon Arm.

Tour Policies

Payments: A deposit of \$800 per person is requested at the time of booking and the balance is due May 17, 2017.

Discounts: Early bookers receive \$300 discount on first 12 seats and \$150 on next 8 seats for booking early with deposit. The discount is not offered after May 17.

Cancellation Policy: Up to April 17, your tour payments will be refunded less an administrative charge of \$50 per person. From April 18 to May 17, the cancellation charge is \$500 per person. From May 18 to June 16, the cancellation charge is 40% of tour fare. From June 17 to July 17, the cancellation charge is 80% of tour fare. After July 17, there is no refund.

Travel Insurance: A Comprehensive Insurance policy is available through Wells Gray Tours and coverage is provided by Travel Guard. Policies purchased at deposit include a waiver of the pre-existing condition clause for medical and cancellation claims, otherwise policies can be purchased no later than at final payment. Please contact us for details.

Photo credit: Edinburgh Military Tattoo

e-points: This tour earns 184 e-points. Each time you travel on a Wells Gray tour, you earn Experience Points, or e-points. One e-point equals \$1. Redeem your points on select tours or accumulate enough points to earn a free tour! Redemptions offered until May 17.

Consumer Protection BC Licences: Kamloops 178, Vernon 655, Kelowna 588, Penticton 924